THE GREATEST AUTHORITY

**15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive *and* remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 1 Thess 4:15-17 (KJV)

This verse is part of a passage in First Thessalonians that really blesses my soul. It is about the glorious resurrection of the Dead in Christ. It is good to know that we don’t just waste away in the earth. I know that the body goes back to the dust from whence it came but God who made these old bodies from the dust will also provide us with the new bodies in the resurrection. Because we have been redeemed by Christ we will spend eternity in heaven with Him.

We can say this and believe this because we are given this promise on the authority of His Word. “For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord.” God has never lied and has never broken a promise. His word never contradicts itself. From Genesis 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 there is perfect harmony. God’s word is divinely inspired and inerrant. Truth is the full content of every verse between its covers. The truth of the Bible is absolute. It is not relevant. I love the hymn we sing “Standing on the Promises.” Biblical content is something we can stand on. The first article of faith in the New Hampshire Confession says that the Bible has “God for its author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter.” That is a very good summary of the authority we have in the Scriptures.

Therefore we can rejoice if our names are written in the Lamb’s Book of Life for whether we are asleep in the grave or still alive at Christ’s coming, we will rise to meet our Lord in the air. We will be together with Him and with our saved loved ones and we will spend eternity in God’s glorious Heaven. We have His Word on it!

Yours in Christ,

Brother Randy Burtram